



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### CANVASBACK AND REDHEAD DUCKS GAIN IN ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Wintering populations of the important canvasback and redhead ducks, as well as certain other species of ducks and geese, showed improvement over low levels of last year, according to results of the Atlantic Flyway's annual midwinter survey just announced by the Department of the Interior.

There was a closed season on canvasback and redhead ducks last year because of the decrease in the populations of these two species. The object was to return as many breeders as possible to the nesting grounds this spring. The Atlantic Flyway post-season survey recently completed showed the redhead duck population about double that of last year and the important canvasback up about 45 percent. Although a major portion of the continental canvasback population winters in the Atlantic Flyway, the bulk of the redhead ducks winter in Texas and Mexico with only a limited number in the Atlantic Flyway.

Puddle ducks as a group showed no change over that recorded last year. Diving ducks as a group showed a slight increase over that of last year with the canvasback, redhead, and scaup contributing materially.

There was a 43 percent increase in Canada geese, a 52 percent increase in swan, and an 11 percent increase in snow geese and brant. American coot showed no change over last year.

The midwinter waterfowl survey is conducted annually throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico by a corps of experienced observers provided by the Provincial, State, and Federal conservation agencies. The Defense Department assists in the aerial coverage. The massive operation is coordinated by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Fish and Wildlife Service. In the 17 Atlantic Flyway States, extending from Maine to Florida, 159 personnel participated. Thirty-one aircraft, 74 cars, and 25 boats were used; and a total of 30,019 miles were traveled.

The bulk of the survey was carried out during the period January 9 to 15. Weather and visibility conditions were unusually good in spite of the fact that practically all fresh waters in the Northern States were frozen tight.

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